Claims:

1. A method for distributing software comprising:

providing a software application on a hardware device by a manufacturer of said software application, wherein said software application is executable on said hardware device:

distributing said hardware device; and

providing a continued service for said software application, wherein said hardware device is adapted to provide said continued service via a communication link between said hardware device and said manufacturer.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing the continued service is performed by a third party service provider.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing said software application in accordance with at least one of a software feature, a hardware configuration and a packaging material.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing said software application in accordance with a service level.
- 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising said service level providing a fee rate in accordance with a level of end user usage.
- 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing a connection from said at least one end user's computer to said hardware device through at least one of a power line, a local area network, a wireless connection, and a direct connection.
- 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising said hardware device providing a connection for insertion of said hardware device into a backplane.

- 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing an unauthorized downloading of said software application from said hardware device.
- 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing an unauthorized uploading of software to said hardware device.
- 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising enclosing said hardware device within an enclosure, thereby preventing unauthorized altering of the configuration of said application specific hardware device.
- 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing a locking feature which requires a key to unlock said software application.
- 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 accessing said hardware device by at least one of a web browser and an
 access software provided by said software manufacturer.
- 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising downloading said access software from said software manufacturer or from said hardware device.
- 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising: configuring said application software for access in conjunction with a web service.
- 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising said hardware device providing said software manufacturer with limited access to end user information on said hardware device.

16. A method for utilizing software comprising:

purchasing a software application with a selectable service level of a continued service:

receiving said software application on a hardware device, wherein said software is executable on said hardware device; and

receiving said continuing service from a software manufacturer of said software application in accordance with said selectable service level.

- 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising said hardware device providing said software manufacturer with limited access to end user information on said hardware device.
- 18. The method of claim 16, wherein said purchasing step comprises purchasing said software in accordance with at least one of a requested software feature and a user selected service level.
- 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising including in said user selected service level a fee rate in accordance with a level of end user usage.
- The method of claim 16, further comprising:utilizing a key to unlock said software application.
- 21. The method of claim 16, further comprising; accessing said software application via at least one of a web browser and an access software provided by said software manufacturer.
- 22. The method of claim 16, further comprising downloading said software from said software manufacturer or from said hardware device.
- The method of claim 16, further comprising:utilizing said software application in conjunction with a web service.

24. A system for using software applications comprising: an end user computer;

at least one hardware device having a software application executable in said hardware device, wherein said hardware device is provided by a manufacturer of said software application; and

a network adapted to connect said at least one hardware device to said end user computer.

- 25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:
- a backplane adapted to receive said at least one hardware device, wherein said backplane is coupled to said end user computer via said network connection.
- 26. The system of claim 24, wherein the software application is provided with a selectable service level of a continued service offered by said software manufacturer.